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**Quilombo**

The film that I have chosen to watch was *Quilombo*. It is a true story written and directed by Carlos Diegues. *Quilombo* was a film made in Brazil. In the 1500s, the first Europeans settled in Brazil. In 1530, they brought the first African slaves work in Brazil on the sugar cane plantations. *Quilombos* were escaped slaves who fled to the mountains known as Palmares (Palm Trees). *Quilombo* was entirely spoken in Portuguese. The viewer of this movie had to read the captions below in order to understand what was being said. Unlike *Roots*, *Quilombo* was a story written about slavery from a South American Brazilian perspective. *Roots: the American Saga* was a story written about slavery from the Northern American perspective. In comparison, Africans came to the Americas to work on the sugar cane plantations. They were brutally mistreated by their white slave owners. During slavery, sugar was the number one commodity of wealth. In contrast, *Quilombo* displayed wars between the Africans and Jewish Portuguese slave traders. The movie showed many colors especially red. Red is a symbol of beauty, anger and war! Many Brazilian slaves came from an African country known as Angola. In Angola, Africans practiced a marital art known as Coperiera. When they came to South America, the slaves did Coperiera to defeat the slave traders. In my opinion, *Quilombo* had more combat action than *Roots*. In 1988, my 7th grade Social Studies teacher, Mr. Nettles, had the class to watch *Roots* and *Gandhi*. The class enjoyed watching both movies. I knew that slavery existed in Africa (a different type of slavery) before the slave trade. I knew that slavery existed in North America but I did not realize it existed in Central and South America as well. Slavery among blacks existed throughout the Diaspora in the Western World and Hemisphere.

In *Quilombo*, the slaves first killed their Dutch slave traders. When they killed their slave traders, some of the ex-slaves decided to escape to Palmares (a free land for blacks) while others wanted to go back to Africa. In Palmares, a deity known as Xango was their G-d. Along with the Africans, White and Native American people also lived there. In the movie, a white man from Palmares was telling his son a Biblical story of Moses. Moses freed the Jews from Pharaoh. When the Egyptians began to miss the Jews, they came after them. Moses parted the Red Sea for the Jews to cross over into their Promise Land. When the Egyptians tried to attack the Jews, the waters united and drowned them. Fortunately, the ex-slaves got their wisdom from an old woman named Acotirene. Acotirene did not trust any white person even if they lived in Palmares. Acotirene knew that she was close to dying. Therefore, she made the Angolan slave, Ganga Zumba the military leader of the blacks in Palmares. He was frightened in becoming a leader. The Portuguese wanted all the blacks to leave Palmares. They negotiated with Ganga Zumba. The Portuguese promised that if the blacks left Palmares, they will be free and have a reserved land. The Portuguese stated that if the blacks did not leave Palmares, they were going to wage war on them. Ganga Zumba agreed to leave the mountains in peace. On the other hand, Zumbi, whose mother was killed by the Portuguese and reared by whites until the age of 15 refused to leave Palmares. Many people agree with him. Zumbi believed that if you were afraid of dying, then you must want to be a slave. Ganga Zumba and Zumbi had a huge dispute. Zumbi’s point of view won recognition. He believed that Black people leaving Palmares for freedom was a hoax set up by the Portuguese. Acotirene promised that Palmares will always be the promise land for black people. When Ganga Zumba died, Zumbi became the main military leader of Palmares. He was an excellent freedom fighter. There were many spies in his organization and there were spies in the white organization. Later, the Portuguese caught up with Zumbi and killed him. In the meantime, another leader took his place. The Europeans never controlled Palmares because the wars were endless. In 1888, slavery in Brazil ended.

I enjoyed this movie. According to critics, it gets 7 stars out of 10. I give it 9 stars out of 10. I disagree with Robert/Ebert opinions about the movie. *Quilombo* has brief nudity in it but there was no sexual content. This movie is only for high school students. First, the teacher has to view the movie and eliminate the nudity if they want to show it to the class. *Quilombo* can be found at the Detroit Public and Wayne State University Libraries. As a history major, I am continually searching for my identity. Globally, black people’s history has been wiped out. We were told that we had made limited of accomplishments and contributions to the world. Recently, I partially watched a documentary of the Fuji Islands on Channel 56. I tried to search for the documentary on the internet, but I could not find it. The Fuji Islands is in the Pacific Ocean but I was amazed to see that many Black people live there. I was told that no matter where I go throughout the world, I will find some ancient artifacts that black people lived there.

In viewing *Quilombo*, students will discover that slavery did not only exist in North America, but in many places throughout the Diaspora. Students’ especially African-American students should know their history just like the Jews know about their history. *Quilombo* has a lot of music and dancing from the Black Brazilian culture that is very fascinating. Furthermore, I have observed that slaves healed themselves with natural herbs. In the movie, the Minister of Brazilian Culture, Gilberto Gil is the musician who sings the theme song, *Quilombo*. He is one of my favorite artists whom I discovered while watching World Link TV. [www.worldlinktv.org](http://www.worldlinktv.org)